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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference RL/FP/02	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IT 02/00251	International filing date (day/month/year) 19.04.2002	Priority date (day/month/year) 26.03.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A47G21/16		
Applicant EFFEPI SRL ET AL.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 - This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the opinion
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 23.06.2003	Date of completion of this report 30.07.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Beugeling, G.L.H. Telephone No. +31 70 340-3284
	

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IT 02/00251

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-10 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-9, 11, 12 filed with telefax on 21.04.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.: 10
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

see separate sheet

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-9,11,12
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-9,11,12
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9,11,12
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IT 02/00251

Re Item I

Basis of the report

1) The amendments filed with the fax dated 21.04.2004 introduce subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as filed, contrary to Article 34(2)(b) PCT.

In claim 1 the applicant has replaced the feature " "C" shape" by the feature "hollow shape" for which there is no basis in the application as filed.

In claim 1 the feature "upper and lower sides moulded to fit" has been omitted for which there is no basis in the application as filed.

In claim 1 the applicant has added the feature "made of a flat surface" for which there is no basis in the application as filed.

In claim 1 the applicant has added the feature "two projections, the upper one and the lower one, which block a mobile element that is inserted inside the fixed element". However, there is only basis in the application as filed for two blunt points (10) at the end of the projections (7) directed towards the inside of the "C" shape which block a mobile element.

Likewise, in claim 1 is claimed that the upper and lower sides of the mobile element are "blocked by the projections (7)", while there is only basis in the application as filed for two notches (8) on the upper and lower side of the mobile element which block the mobile element.

2) Hence, this report has been established as if in claim 1 the above blocking aspect was properly claimed, thus as if claim 1 reads (the terminology has also been slightly adapted for consistency):

"1) System for fixing a cloth and decorative elements, such as draperies and similar, to a table, characterised in that it comprises:

- a fixed element (1), having in cross-section a rectangular "C" shape, the back part of the "C" being shaped to follow the external edge of the table to which said back part is to be fixed and the front part of the "C" consisting of one upper and one lower projection (7), which projections (7) comprise two blunt points (10, 11) directed towards each other,
- a mobile element (2) that has a rectangular cross-sectional shape and upper and lower sides moulded to fit into the fixed element (1) when the cloth is inserted inside the fixed element (1) and that has on the upper and lower sides two notches (8) that correspond to the two blunt points (10, 11) to

- block the mobile element (2) when it is inserted inside the fixed element (1),
- means to possibly fix the decorative elements, such as draperies, to the sides of the table, comprising a Velcro strip (5) on the external surface of the mobile element (2) over which the upper border of the decorative elements are to be fixed."

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- 1) Reference is made to the following document:

D1: NL 1004932 C.

- 2) D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses, see in particular figure 7, a system for fixing a cloth and decorative elements, such as draperies and similar, to a table, which comprises (using the terms of claim 1 of Item I (2) above but referring to D1):
 - a fixed element (20), having in cross-section a "C" shape, the back part of the "C" being shaped to follow the external edge (3) of the table (2) to which said back part is to be fixed and the front part of the "C" consisting of one upper and one lower projection, which projections comprise two blunt points (31) directed towards each other,
 - a mobile element (21) that has upper and lower sides moulded to fit into the fixed element (20) when the cloth (7) is inserted inside the fixed element (20) and that has on the upper and lower sides two notches (27) that correspond to the two blunt points (31) to block the mobile element (21) when it is inserted inside the fixed element (20),
 - means (26) to possibly fix the decorative elements, such as draperies, to the sides of the table, comprising a Velcro strip (26) on the external surface (25) of the mobile element (21) over which the upper border of the decorative elements (5) are to be fixed.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known system in that "C" shaped cross-section of the fixed element (20) is rectangular and in that the mobile element has a rectangular cross-sectional shape.

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The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problems to be solved by the differences may therefore be regarded as the selection of an alternative shape for the "C" shaped cross-section of the fixed element, respectively the selection of an alternative cross-sectional shape for the mobile element.

The solutions proposed in claim 1 of the present application are considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) because rectangular shapes are neither known from nor rendered obvious by the available prior art. In the prior art tubular shapes are applied to facilitate insertion of a mobile element into a fixed element when a cloth lies in "C" shape against a tubular (extension of the) mobile element.

Claims 2 to 9, 11, 12 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

CLAIMS

- 1) System and device for fixing a cloth or and decorative elements, such as draperies and similar, to a table or other surface and/or support, characterized in that it comprises:
 - a fixed element, having a rectangular hollow shape (1) generally having a "C" shape following the shape of the external edge of the table to which it must be fixed and with the front part consisting of two projections (7), the upper one and the lower one, which block a mobile element that is inserted inside the fixed element; which is attached to the external edge of the table, where a further
 - a mobile element (2), fits. This second element has the upper and lower sides moulded to fit into the above-mentioned fixed element, after the insertion of the cloth inside it, made of a flat surface that has a rectangular shape and such a dimension so as to perfectly fit into the inner space of the fixed element (1), so that the upper and lower sides of this mobile element are blocked by the projections (7) of the above-mentioned fixed element, after the insertion of the cloth inside it;
 - possible means to fix the drapery, or other decorative elements, to the sides of the table, by a Velcro strip (5) provided on the external surface of the mobile element (2) over which the upper border of the drapery is fixed.
- 2) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the mobile elements (2) has, on the upper and lower part, two notches (8) that correspond to the projections (7) of the fixed element (1);
- 2) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the fixed element (1) has a "C" shape following the shape of the table to which it must be fixed and with the front part consisting of two projections (7), one upper and one lower, which end with two blunt points directed towards the inside and having such a shape as to block the mobile element that is inserted inside.

3) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the fixed element (1) has some inner bulges (3), between which the head of the screw (4) lodges, so that the inner side of the device results flat and doesn't damage the cloth after the insertion of the mobile element (2) closing the joint.

4) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the fixed element (1) may have an upper part (9) that is longer than the lower one and comprises a projection (11) inside which the upper notch of the mobile element (2) fits.

5) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the fixed element (1) is fixed to the table by means of a perforating screw (4) that enters a hole (6) and screws to the same table.

6) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the fixed element may be fixed to the table by means of an adhesive or biadhesive or other means for this purpose.

7) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the fixed element may be fixed to the table by pressure, thanks to the joint that is realized between the two extensions (15) placed on its back and the edge of the same table, said back being either straight, hollow or otherwise shaped as to suit the edge of the table it must be fitted to.

8) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the element may also be fixed to the table by the joint of a projection on its back that fits into a notch previously made on the edge of the table.

9) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the fixed element (1) is applied over the entire length of the edge of the table over which the tablecloth, curtain or other cloth must be spread.

10) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the mobile element (2) has a rectangular shape and such a dimension as to perfectly fit into the inner space of the fixed element (1); in addition it has, on the

~~upper and lower part, two notches (8) that correspond to the projections (7) of the fixed element (1).~~

11) System and device as claimed in claims 1 and 10, characterized in that the notches (8) of the mobile element (2) have a rounded shape in order to facilitate their insertion by pressure inside the fixed element and suit the blunt points of its projections (7).

12) System and device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the two elements forming the device have proportional sizes compared with the ones of the edge of the table to which they must be applied.